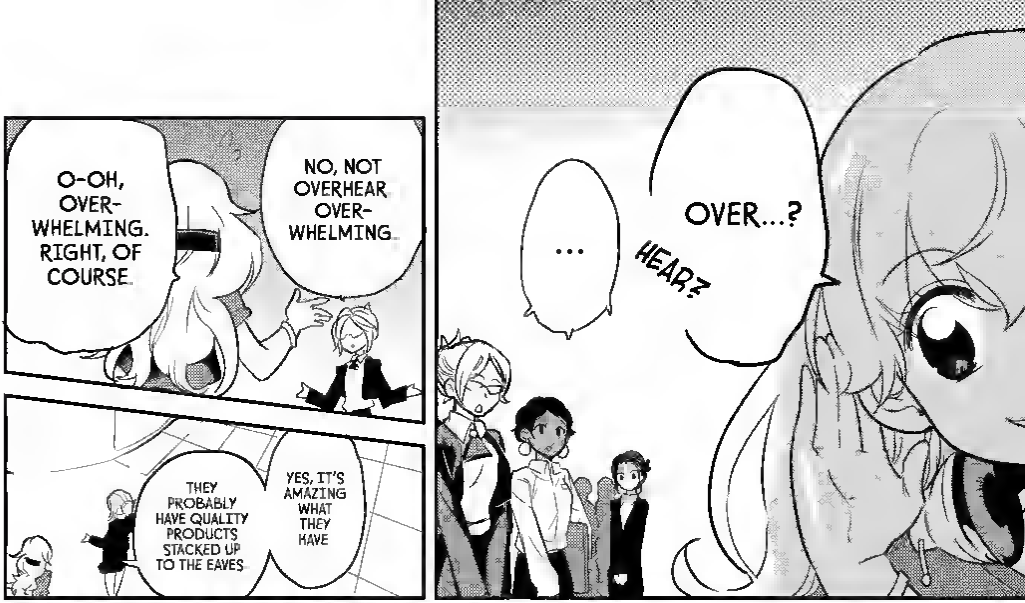
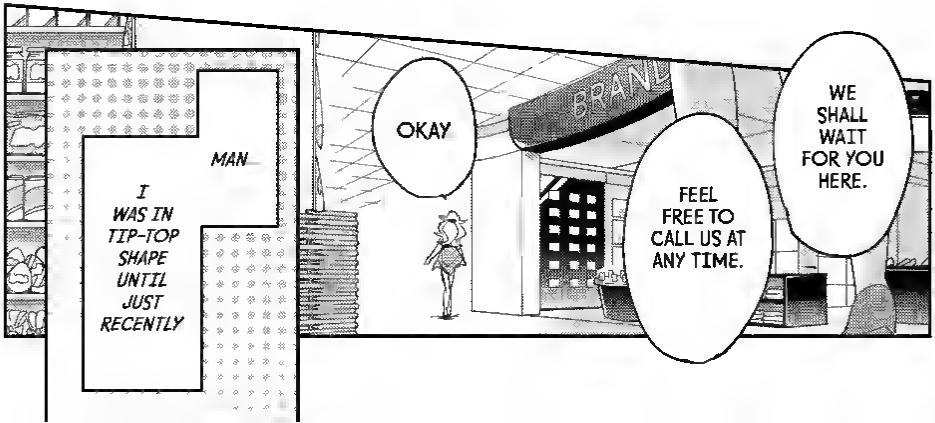
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

ENA-SAMA.
THE PLANE IS RUNNING LATE.
THERE WILL BE A SHORT WAIT.
I WILL RESERVE THE LOUNGE FOR US RIGHT AWAY.
OH, HOLD ON.
I'M GOING HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE
I'D LIKE TO BUY MY PARENTS A SOUVENIR
WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA, ENA-SAMA.
IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU CARE TO BROWSE THESE STORES?
THIS AIRPORT HAS AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF BRAND NAME SHOPS
HUH?

CHAPTER 69: THE AIRPORT REUNION, PART 1


O-OH, OVER-WHELMING. RIGHT, OF COURSE.
NO, NOT OVERHEAR. OVER-WHELMING.
THEY PROBABLY HAVE QUALITY PRODUCTS STACKED UP TO THE EAVES
YES, IT'S AMAZING WHAT THEY HAVE
...
OVER...?
HEAR?

ENA-SAMA?
EAVES...?
DROP-PING?
EAVES?


MAN...
I WAS IN TIP-TOP SHAPE UNTIL JUST RECENTLY
OKAY
FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT ANY TIME.
WE SHALL WAIT FOR YOU HERE.

I FEEL LIKE IT'S STILL SWIRLING AROUND IN THE BACK OF MY MIND.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE THAT LAST EAVES-DROPPING SESSION DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.

FIDGET
EVEN SO, JUST A LITTLE...
JUST OVER-HEARING A LITTLE SOMETHING WOULD...
FIDGET

BUT I'M JUST FINE...
..EVEN WITHOUT MY EAVES-DROPPING.

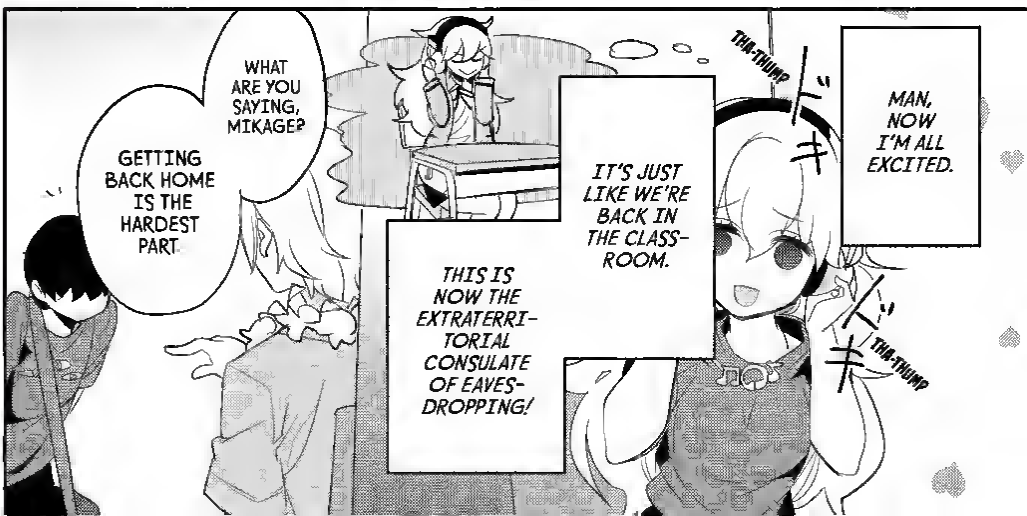
I'M SURE I'D BE ABLE TO WORK EVEN HARDER EVERY DAY
OR SOME-THING.
FIDGET
FIDGET
IF ONLY...

I GUESS THAT'S ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.
THAT SURE WAS FUN, WASN'T IT, MIKAGE?
Hawaii Cookie
YEAH, NARA-KUN.
IT WAS MY FIRST TRIP OVER-SEAS.
IT REALLY WAS FUN.
WE SURE HAD A PACKED SCHEDULE THOUGH.
!?!???
!????!
???!?!
???!!?

...AND MIKAGE-KUN?!
THIS IS AMERICA, RIGHT?
NARA-KUN...
THIS... THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE!
TH-THIS IS BAD THOUGH. IT'S SO SUDDEN I'M NOT EMOTIONALLY PREPARED
...A TRIP ABROAD?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE PRIZE FOR THE ART CONTEST WOULD BE...
THAT'S NOT THE LOOK-ALIKES, IS IT? THEIR AURA IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
PRIZE? TRAVELLING ABROAD?
ALL RIGHT! OVER THERE!
I'LL HIDE BEHIND THAT.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR QUIB-BLING!
WASN'T IT GOOD TO WORK TO-GETHER?
ON THAT ABSTRACT PIECE
LAND-SCAPE
OH NO, THEY'RE LEAVING!

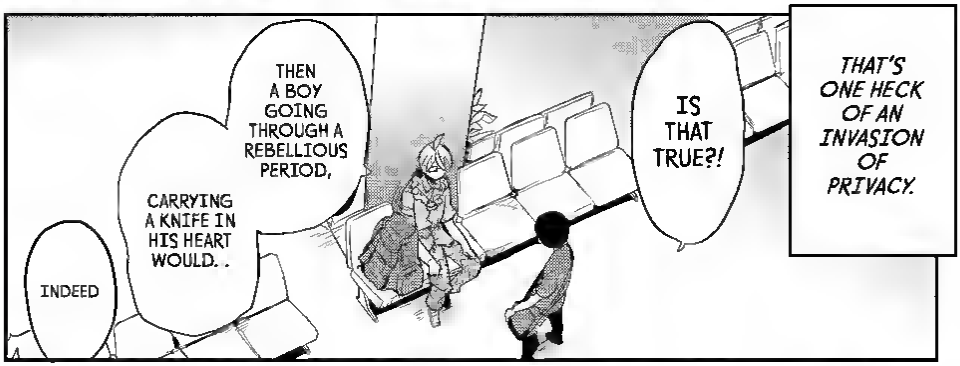
I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVER-HEAR THEM TALKING!

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO GET HOME
YEAH
じ～ん
AAAH...
IT'S.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIKAGE?
GETTING BACK HOME IS THE HARDEST PART
THIS IS NOW THE EXTRATERRI-TORIAL CONSULATE OF EAVES-DROPPING!
IT'S JUST LIKE WE'RE BACK IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
THA-THUMP
MAN, NOW I'M ALL EXCITED.
THA-THUMP

YOU MEAN THE JOURNEY THERE?
IS IT REALLY THAT HARD?
IT REALLY IS THAT HARD
NOW WHAT ABOUT THAT COULD BE HARD?
LET ME HEAR YOUR ANSWER!
ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING?
ON THE WAY HOME, THE ONE THING WE NEED FEAR THE MOST IS...
THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DETECTOR ..
...SITUATED AT THE DEPARTURE GATE FOR CARRY-ON LUGGAGE!
WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SMUGGLE SOME-THING?
WHY IS THAT, NARA-KUN?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DANGER-OUS
YOU CAN JUST GO RIGHT THROUGH THE GATE OTHER-WISE
I'VE GOT NO METAL, NO EXPLO-SIVES, NO DRUGS,
NO WILD BEASTS, NO MONSTERS, NO GHOSTS...
THAT'S AN AWFULLY COMPRE-HENSIVE LIST
EVEN STRIPPED NAKED BY X-RAYS, I'D BE ALL CLEAR.
MI-KAGE..

DETECTION DEVICES FROM OVERSEAS ARE SO HIGH-TECH,
THEY DON'T JUST SEE WHAT YOU'RE CARRY-ING!
THEY CAN ALSO SEE WHAT DANGERS LURK IN YOUR HEART!
SO EVEN YOUR HEART'S NAKED TO THEM?!


THAT'S ONE HECK OF AN INVASION OF PRIVACY.
IS THAT TRUE?!
THEN A BOY GOING THROUGH A REBELLIOUS PERIOD,
CARRYING A KNIFE IN HIS HEART WOULD. .
INDEED

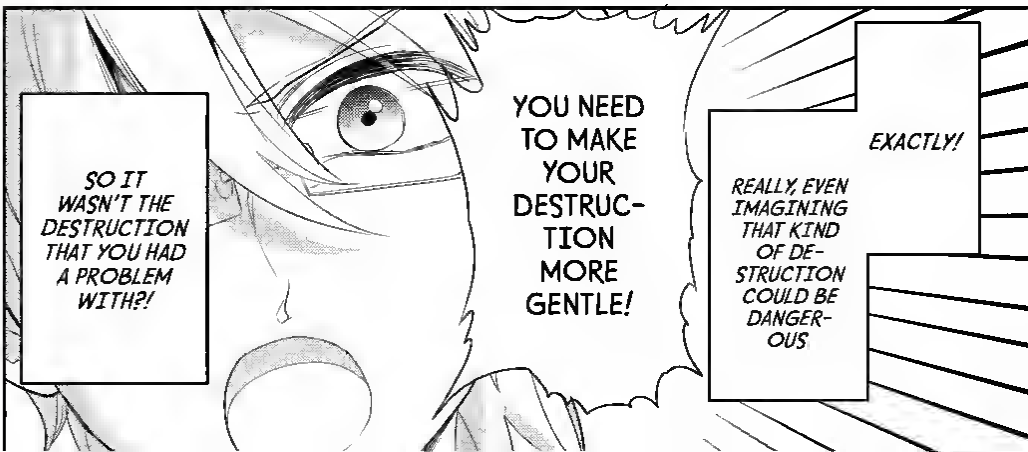
GATE
I HAD NO IDEA.
TO THINK AIRPORT SECURITY HAS GONE THAT FAR...
BUT NARA-KUN...

SO WE'D GO FROM FAMILY TRIP TO FAMILY CRISIS?
AND AFTER THAT,
IT WOULD BE TOO LATE...
THEY'D APPREHEND HIM RIGHT AWAY

...FROM THE OTHER PASSENGERS, LIKELY MENTALLY WORN DOWN FROM THE EVERYDAY GRIND OF MODERN LIFE?
DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
THAT'S PRECISELY IT, MIKAGE.
GATE
WE'RE CURRENTLY ENJOYING OUR TRIP.
HOW COULD THERE BE ANYTHING DARK LEFT IN OUR HEARTS NOW?
HUH?
THAT CYNICISM!
IT'S LIKE A SMALL NEEDLE THAT PIERCES THE HEART! THE PERFECT SECRET WEAPON!
THE ALARMS WILL SCREECH SO LOUDLY, THEY'LL BURST YOUR EARDRUMS!
THAT'S ONE JUDGMENTAL MACHINE!
YOU NEED TO SOFTEN YOUR HEART.
FOR EXAMPLE, TRY TO THINK OF THINGS LIKE SO...
THIS WORLD DOESN'T NEED POLICE OR COURTHOUSES
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
IT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE NO BAD PEOPLE!
IS THIS GATE EXCLUSIVELY FOR SAINTS NOW?
UM... THERE ARE NO BAD PEOPLE
WE DON'T NEED POLICE OR ANY COURTHOUSES...
BECAUSE...

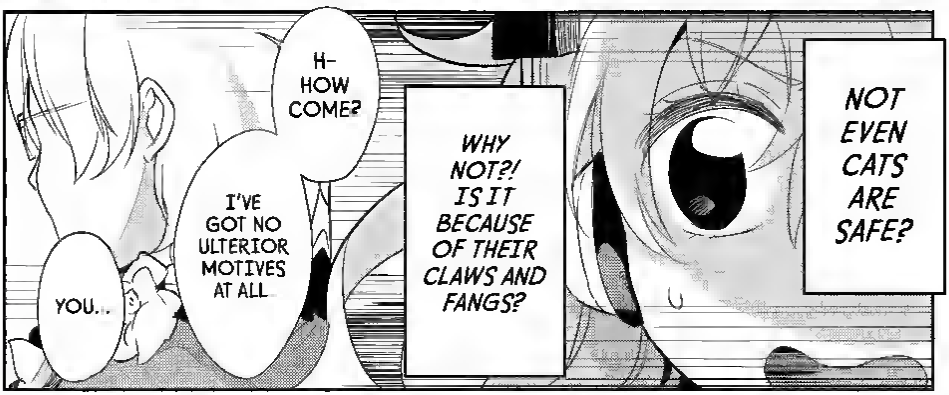
WE JUST BLOW THEM ALL UP!
W-WAIT!
ALARM! ALARM!

THAT'S EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN TAKING A KNIFE THROUGH SECURITY!
I CAN'T HELP THAT MY MIND IS FULL OF EXPLOSIVES. I THOUGHT I SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
M-MIKAGE!
THAT COULD PROBABLY DESTROY TWO WHOLE BUILDINGS!
AS IF YOU COULD GET THROUGH WITH THAT MUCH DESTRUCTIVE POWER!


EXACTLY!
REALLY, EVEN IMAGINING THAT KIND OF DESTRUCTION COULD BE DANGEROUS.
YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR DESTRUCTION MORE GENTLE!
SO IT WASN'T THE DESTRUCTION THAT YOU HAD A PROBLEM WITH?!

A GENTLE DESTRUC-TION?
INDEED, A GENTLE DESTRUC-TION
WHAT, EXACTLY, IS A GENTLE DESTRUC-TION?
TAKING IT APART BY HAND?
SOME-THING THAT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO ACCOM-PLISH?
DO IT WITH A NATURALLY OCCURRING BACTERIA
SURELY THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY LEVEL THE BUILDING
FORGET YEARS THAT WOULD TAKE MILLENNIA
HMPH.
IT'S HARDER THAN IT SOUNDS NOT TO CARRY WEAPONS IN YOUR HEART.
NO, THE MACHINE JUST JUDGES PEOPLE TOO HARSHLY.
IMAGINE WORKING IN A SCISSOR FACTORY. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT YOUR JOB WHILE GOING THROUGH THE GATE
I'VE GOT IT!
ALL I NEED TO KEEP MY HEART CALM...
...IS TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING I LIKE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AT LEAST IN MY CASE...

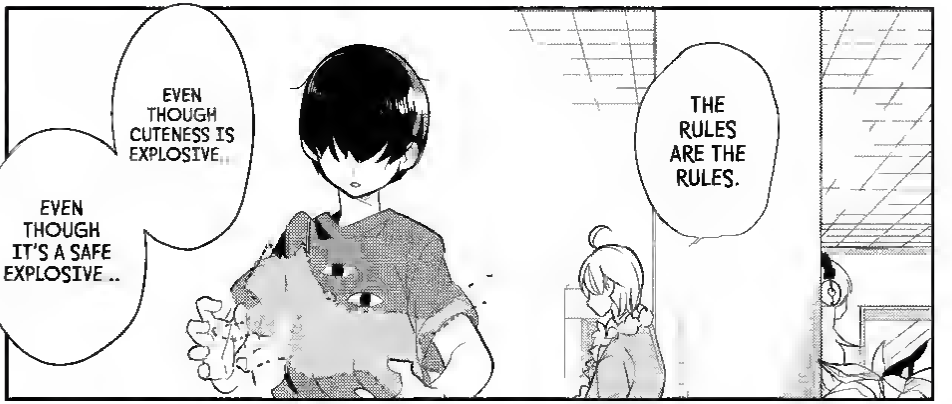
WEE OOO
IF I JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT CATS...
THAT'S NO GOOD, MIKAGE!
WHAT?! ANOTHER ALARM?!


NOT EVEN CATS ARE SAFE?
WHY NOT?! IS IT BECAUSE OF THEIR CLAWS AND FANGS?
H-HOW COME?
I'VE GOT NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES AT ALL
YOU...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE A SECOND THOUGHT TO ALL THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OUTSIDE OF JAPAN, DID YOU?!
WHOA!
IT'D BE SMUG-GLING!
SO HE WAS IMAGINING TAKING AN EXOTIC CAT INTO JAPAN?

CHASE CATS OUT OF MY HEART
GATE
CHASE CATS OUT OF YOUR HEART!
IF YOU WANT TO GET HOME,
...
NARA-KUN
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
MIKAGE-KUN?
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH THAT GATE.
I SHALL STAY IN AMERICA.

SO YOU'RE NEVER GOING HOME?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER CHASE CATS OUT OF MY HEART.
IS HE SERIOUS ABOUT STAYING HERE?
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT THAT?
PRETTY MUCH.
TH-THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S HAPPY,
BUT IT'S POINTLESS IF HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO.
HMPH. THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.
BUT IT'S REALLY TOO BAD THAT I CAN'T TAKE THIS BEYOND THE GATE.
IT'S JUST SO CUTE.


EVEN THOUGH CUTENESS IS EXPLOSIVE...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SAFE EXPLOSIVE ..
THE RULES ARE THE RULES.

I SUPPOSE CUSTOMS COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND...
...JUST HOW CUTE THIS CAT IS.
...

IT REALLY IS THAT CUTE.
IS IT REALLY THAT CUTE?

THE JUDGE...
WHAT A RELIEF.
THEN I'M SURE THEY'LL LET IT THROUGH
ANY CUTE ANIMAL SOFTENS THE BLOW
...LETS ANYTHING BY!
...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO EAVES-DROP LIKE THAT
NOW I'M COMPLETELY SATISFIED
YUP, THAT WAS FUN
LET'S SURPASS EVEN TOP FORM!
LET'S GO! ROUND TWO!
NO! THIS IS NO-WHERE NEAR ENOUGH!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 069

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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